

Suggested Films

Most societies run film screening. This list is intending to make life a little easier by suggesting films and saying how the screenings went for other non-religious societies.

Remember: be careful if hosting a screening on university property that it is legal and within copyright law, as some Student Unions can get very grouchy if it isn't! Your Student Union should issue you with guidelines on how to do this.

If you have a social budget in your college or residence you could show one of these films for a wider audience (then use it as a membership drive). Think about outdoor film screenings in good weather, combine with beers and a BBQ = awesome social.

Really useful link!!

<http://www.reitstoen.com/multimedia.php>

Also!

<http://www.youtube.com/user/richarddawkinsdotnet#p/u>

<http://www.infidels.org/infidels/products/video/>

528 debates, many with video!!! <http://commonsenseatheism.com/?p=50>

Fiction

Agora

A historical drama set in Roman Egypt, concerning a slave who turns to the rising tide of Christianity in the hope of pursuing freedom while falling in love with his mistress, the famous philosophy and mathematics professor Hypatia of Alexandria.

Angels and Demons

Film based on the Dan Brown book. It is a prequel to The Da Vinci Code

Are Christians Being Persecuted? - Nicky Campbell

A one hour special for Holy Week on BBC one, investigates whether Christians are being discriminated against in modern society.

Good if you like tearing your hair out

Baba

Might be a bit rubbish, but worth checking out. Karma-reincarnation plot.

Bruce Almighty

Comedy, stars Jim Carrey.

Very funny, but not much of a discussion starter.

Chocolat

Chocolat is easily categorised as just another "chick flick", but it even more easily captures you in it's magic and ambiance. The lead played by Juliette Binoche and her daughter are outsiders in their new home. To gain acceptance they appeal to the townspeople's earthly happiness in direct defiance of the church. It is hard to like the church when there are so many delectable treats that come without guilt.

Contact

Its heroine played by Jody Foster who is a strong, intelligent atheist who fights the establishment for her place in the universally historical events to come. The film is awe inspiring, thought provoking and contains some incredible dialogue. It is a must see for sci-fi fans and any open minded individual.

Creation

Torn between faith and science, and suffering hallucinations, English naturalist Charles Darwin struggles to complete 'On the Origin of Species' and maintain his relationship with his wife.

Da Vinci Code (The)

Screened by Leeds Atheist Society

Devil's Advocate

Al Pacino takes his turn as the great Satan, and clearly relishes his chance to raise hell. He's a New York lawyer, of course, by the name of John Milton, who recruits a hotshot young Florida attorney (Keanu Reeves) to his firm and seduces him with tempting offers of power, sex, and money.

Dogma

Matt Damon and Ben Afflec play two fallen angels trying to get back to heaven. Full star cast, including Alan Rickman as the voice of god. Incredibly funny.

Evan Almighty

Very funny, light comedy. Sequel to Bruce Almighty, starring Steve Carell. Screened by Leeds Atheists.

Evolution: The Musical!

Comedy portraying the evolution-creationism debate. Looks good for a laugh.

God's Not Dead

College philosophy professor Mr. Radisson's curriculum is challenged by his new student, Josh, who believes God exists. Good for laugh or for a joint event with a Christian society.

God on Trial

A 90-minute film partly based on Elie Wiesel's book The Trial of God, in which a group of Jewish prisoners in Auschwitz put God on trial in absentia for abandoning the Jewish people. The film focuses on whether God has broken his covenant with the Jewish people by allowing the Nazis to commit genocide, or whether God simply does not exist in the first place. Was shown by Oxford Atheist Society.

I ♥ Huckabees

A nice exploration of transcendental and nihilist philosophy, easy to watch and reflect from both atheist and Humanist stand points. Good option for a joint event with a Philosophy society.

Idiocracy

Private Joe Bauers, the definition of "average American", is selected by the Pentagon to be the guinea pig for a top-secret hibernation program. Forgotten, he awakes five centuries in the future. He discovers a society so incredibly dumbed down that he's easily the most intelligent person alive.

Inherit the Wind

Based on the historical 'Scopes Monkey Trial' (but not completely accurate) that tried a teacher for teaching Evolution in his classroom.

Jerry Springer the Opera

Controversial film, which was banned in some areas due to its blasphemous content.

Shown by Leeds Atheist Society

Last Temptation of Christ (The) (1988)

Heavily informed by Gnostic reinterpretations of the Passion, The Last Temptation of Christ (based rather strictly on Nikos Kazantzakis's novel of the same name) is surely worth seeing for the controversy and blasphemous content alone

Left Behind

A small group of survivors are left behind after millions of people suddenly vanish during the Rapture and the world is plunged into chaos and destruction. Starring Nicolas Cage. Rightly scored as one of the worst films of all time. You have been warned.

Monty Python - The Life of Brian

A comedy everyone has seen. Once considered controversial, but now accepted.

A religious satire that does not target specific religions or religious leaders (like, say, Jesus of Nazareth). Instead, it pokes fun at the mindless and fanatical among their followers--it's an attack on religious zealotry and hypocrisy.

Screened by Leeds Atheist Society, Atheist Society of Southampton and Oxford Atheist Society.

Monty Python - The Quest for the Holy Grail

Who hasn't see this?

Passion of Christ (The)- Mel Gibson

The most gruesome portrayal of Jesus' last day on earth. The Church loved it...well depending on if you like lots of blood and watching suffer you might too.

Paul

Two British comic-book geeks travelling across the U.S. encounter an alien outside Area 51.

Planet of the Apes

Heavy-handed object lessons abound--the ubiquity of generational warfare, the inflexibility of dogma, the cruelty of prejudice--and the didactic fingerprints of Rod Serling are very much in evidence here. But director Franklin Schaffner has a dark, pop-apocalyptic sci-fi vision all his own, and time has not dulled the monumental emotional impact of the film's climactic payoff shot.

Saved!

Religious satire - teen movie style. Explores diversity and lifestyle, in the context of fundamentalism.

Second Coming (The)(drama series from 2003, with Christopher Eccleston)

REALLY good

Seventh Seal (The)

Max Von Sydow plays a knight returning from the Crusades to encounter an apocalyptic scenario inspired by the Book of Genesis. He plays chess with Death (Bengt Ekerot), sees a

manacled witch, watches a band of flagellants go by--all of it foretelling an inevitable end to life. Unabashedly allegorical and lyrical and existing in a world unto itself, the film is enormously mesmerizing

Stigmata

Gabriel Byrne plays Father Kiernan, a young Jesuit priest whose degree in chemistry makes him a sort of priest/detective as he investigates weeping Marys and the like around the world. Meanwhile, Frankie (Patricia Arquette), a rave-generation Pittsburgher, is afflicted with the stigmata--holes that appear in her wrists, resembling the wounds of Christ. Several elements of the film challenge basic tenets of the Catholic faith, hence the brief furor that erupted at the time of the film's release; if nothing else, the internal workings of the Church are shown in a very unflattering light indeed. Byrne excels as the skeptical priest, as does Arquette as the tortured young atheist woman.

The Invention of Lying

A comedy set in a world where no one has ever lied, until a writer seizes the opportunity for personal gain and inadvertently starts religion.

This is the End

While attending a party at James Franco's house, Seth Rogen, Jay Baruchel and many other celebrities are faced with the apocalypse. Good comedy.

The Ledge

A police officer looks to talk down a young man lured by his lover's husband to the ledge of a high rise, where he has one hour to contemplate a fateful decision.

Documentaries (28)

Audience of One

Screened at the Atheist Film Festival 2009. <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0976087/>

Baby Bible Bashes

A documentary that follows the life's of child preachers around the world. It WILL bring a tear to your eye. Leeds Atheist Society show it every year and find it facilitates great post-screening pub discussion.

Brief History of Disbelief (A) - Jonathan Miller

In this first ever television history of disbelief, Jonathan Miller goes on a journey exploring the origins of his own lack of belief and uncovering the hidden story of atheism.

Screened by Southampton Atheists

Collision

Documentary film of the debate on christianity and atheist morality between Christopher Hitchens and Douglas Wilson.

Creation

Film about Darwin, shown by Warwick Atheists.

Deliver Us from Evil

Screened at the Atheist Film Festival 2009. <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0814075/>

Enemies of Reason (The) - Slaves to Superstition and The Irrational Health Service

Prof Richard Dawkins looks at how health has become a battleground between reason and superstition. A third of us now spend a total of over 1.6 billion a year on superstitious alternative remedies, but 80% of them have never been subjected to properly conducted trials. Screened by Atheists of Southampton.

Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed

An independent documentary film.

Fitna

A 17min, contrivertial film that links Islamic texts with terrorism, genital mutilation and forced marriages. If you are feeling daring or have a death wish, this is the perfect film to annoy your Union. You probably can't buy it, but it is all over the internet. Southampton Atheists had to have metal detectors, bag searches and police on the door to screen it. Leeds Atheists got banned from screening it.

From Jesus to Christ: The First Christians

4 hours historical/scholarly film about the above. Could watch it in 4 parts, might be good as part of a course!!

Genius of Charles Darwin (The) - Dawkins

Three episodes. Dawkins on Darwin and evolution.

God who Wasn't There (The) -Brian Flemming

Holding modern Christianity up to a bright spotlight, this bold and often hilarious new film asks the questions few dare to ask.

Your guide through the world of Christendom is former fundamentalist **Brian Flemming**, joined by such luminaries as Jesus Seminar fellow **Robert M. Price**, professor **Richard Dawkins**, author **Sam Harris** and historian **Richard Carrier**.

Here Be Dragons

A short film an introduction to sceptical thinking and common fallacious arguments, which should hopefully set the tone for how subsequent events are approached. This was shown by Oxford Atheist Society and Southampton Atheist Society. Available for free, legally, in high definition, from <http://herebedragonsmovie.com/>

Hug an Atheist

Hug an Atheist is built around a series of interviews conducted in 2012-2013 and led by Sylvia Broeckx. The film aims to dispel many of the stubborn and long-standing myths and untruths that plague this group of people. Director available for speaking events. Download from <http://www.huganatheist.org>

Jesus Camp

Startlingly factual and sad to watch.

Screened by Leeds Atheist Society, Warwick Atheists, Sheffield Secular and Atheist Society, and Oxford Secular Society

Life of Charles Dawin (The)

Mea Maxima Culpa: Silence in the House of God

Filmmaker Alex Gibney examines reports of pedophilia within the Roman Catholic Church, focusing specifically on a group of men who alleged that they were abused as boys by a priest at a Milwaukee school for the deaf.

Messiah - Derren Brown

Missionary Position (The) - Hitchens

Exposé on Mother Teresa from 1994

Monkey Trial

Evolution teaching case - free speech issues.

Most Hated Family in America (The) - Louis Theroux

Documentary on the Westboro Baptist Church

Nice Guys Finish First

Documentary in which Richard Dawkins discusses selfishness and cooperation, arguing that evolution often favours co-operative behaviour.

Screened by Southampton Atheists

Question of God (The)

A four hour series on the big questions, features commentary on CS Lewis and Freud.

Religulous - Bill Maher

Hilarious, notorious film 'Religulous'. Maher's globe-trotting quest to understand religion was always going to be controversial, but it has also been hugely successful - currently one of the top 10 all-time highest grossing documentaries in America. Has been shown by Leeds Atheist Society and Oxford Atheist Society.

Root of All Evil? - Dawkins

In this two-part documentary, Oxford Professor [Richard Dawkins](#) examines how religious faith is gaining ground in the face of rational, scientific truth. The program takes you to some of the world's religious hot-spots, both in America and the Middle East.

System (The) - Derren Brown

Posing as an anonymous tipster, Derren repeatedly predicts, twenty-four hours in advance, the winners of horse-races and sends those tips to a single mother from London. She starts to bet and win increasing amounts, until she bets every last penny she had in one final race. But is there really a perfect system? Derren explains his fool-proof method for guaranteeing a win every time, and takes us galloping through the limits of our perception up to an edge-of-the-seat finale.

Screened by Southampton Atheists during Reason Week.

Testing God

Three-part documentary of Testing God. Warwick Atheists have now shown it twice.

Programme One: Killing the Creator examines whether science has foreclosed on the possibility of a creator God and, if not, whether it can.

Some say science is actually having to grapple with the fact that our universe, far from being explicable as a logical or mathematical necessity, is a highly unlikely place. Is this evidence that the laws of nature are a product of design? If so, surely this is indisputable evidence for God. An alternative explanation, that ours is one of an infinite number of universes, seems to pose more problems for science than it solves.

Programme Three: Credo Ergo Sum looks at the human brain and the human mind. Are our minds based purely on binary logic, or is there something irrational - something subjective -

at the root of reason? We look at ideas in physics, neurology and psychology and suggest that, whatever you think about the existence of God, the ability to believe is a crucial part of living in a fundamentally uncertain world. If we deny this in a quest for rational "certainty", might we be denying the very thing that makes us human?

The God Who Wasn't There

A 2005 independent documentary written and directed by Brian Flemming. The documentary questions the existence of Jesus, examining evidence that supports the Christ myth theory against the existence of a historical Jesus, as well as other aspects of Christianity

What Muslims Want - Channel 4 Documentary about the title.

Where in the world is Osama Bin Laden?

Screened by Leeds Atheist Society

Lectures and Debates(30)

"Atheism is the New Fundamentalism" - Intelligence Squared Debate

Richard Harries and Charles Moore against Anthony Grayling and Richard Dawkins. Available to stream legally at <http://www.intelligencesquared.com/iq2-video/2009/atheism>

"Can British Science Rise to the Challenges of the 21st Century?" - Professor Sir David King for the 2009 BHA Darwin Day lecture

Available to stream legally at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehcY37DW2og>

"The Catholic Church is a Force for Good in the World" - Intelligence Squared debate

Christopher Hitchens and Stephen Fry against Archbishop John Onaiyekan and Ann Widdecombe. Available to stream legally at <http://www.intelligencesquared.com/iq2-video/2009/catholic-church>

"Cute, Sexy, Sweet, Funny" - Dan Deitch?v=k7EzHqwCDaE

Michael Schmidt-Salomon on "Evolutionary Humanism: How to cope with the moral arguments against evolution" - Many objections made to the theory of evolution are not scientific but moralistic. Especially in Germany, evolutionary thinkers are confronted with the reproach that their ideas would lead to a new rise of Social Darwinism. Evolutionary Humanism deals with this problem. It combines a strong naturalistic and an also strong humanistic point of view which is attractive for many people today:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zl9AI0f8jk8>

Richard Dawkins on "There is grandeur in this view of life": This talk reflects the final chapter of his book, The Greatest Show on Earth:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h_f3B45E4dw

"A Darwinian Perspective on Religions: Past, Present and Future" - Daniel Dennett lecture for the BHA

Available to stream legally at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dCgUJdsliEM>

Does God Have a future (The Nightline Face-off)

Debate, Sam Harris and Michael Shermer vs Deepak Chopra and some annoying woman

called Jean

Be prepared to control your fits of rage at Deepak

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6-8-Yxdphsg&feature=related>

Four Horsemen (The)

The four giants of atheism and free-thinking, [Richard Dawkins](#), [Daniel C. Dennett](#), [Sam Harris](#) and [Christopher Hitchens](#) make a two-hour discussion around the table in this special program. Available on DVD but also to stream legally at

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-869630813464694890#>

Shown by Leeds Atheist Society

"Growing Up in the Universe" - Richard Dawkins Lecture Series

Oxford professor Richard Dawkins presents a series of lectures on life, the universe, and our place in it. With brilliance and clarity, Dawkins unravels an educational gem that will mesmerize young and old alike. Illuminating demonstrations, wildlife, virtual reality, and special guests (including Douglas Adams) all combine to make this collection a timeless classic.

The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures for Children were founded by Michael Faraday in 1825, with himself as the inaugural lecturer. The 1991 lecturer was Richard Dawkins whose five one-hour lectures, originally televised by the BBC, are now available free online, courtesy of The Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason and Science.

Episode 1 - "Waking Up in the Universe": <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jHoxZF3ZgTo>

Episode 2 - "Designed and Designoid Objects":

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xGyh1Qsw-Ak>

Episode 3 - "Climbing Mount Improbable":

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YT1vXXMsYak>

Episode 4 - "The Ultraviolet Garden": <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=igTWNidwnk>

Episode 5 - "The Genesis of Purpose": <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qm-0Z0ceezQ>

"Morals of an Atheist (The)" - Intelligence Squared Interview with Christopher Hitchens

If there is no God – no ground of being – if human beings represent nothing more than temporary swarms of atoms, then what sense does it make even to speak of “right” and “wrong”?” Where does morality come from? Reflecting on what he calls “the appalling insinuation that I would not know right from wrong if I was not supernaturally guided,....” Christopher Hitchens takes on the likes of Jonathan Swift, C.S. Lewis, and Charles Darwin in making his case for atheism. Available to stream legally at

<http://www.intelligencesquared.com/talks/christopher-hitchens-the-morals-of-an-atheist>

"On a Life of Purpose" - Rick Warren TED Lecture; and "Response to Rick Warren" - Dan Dennett TED Lecture

February 2006. Pastor Rick Warren, author of *The Purpose-Driven Life*, reflects on his own crisis of purpose in the wake of his book's wild success. He explains his belief that God's intention is for each of us to use our talents and influence to do good. Available to stream legally at http://www.ted.com/talks/rick_warren_on_a_life_of_purpose.html

Philosopher Dan Dennett calls for religion -- all religion -- to be taught in schools, so we can understand its nature as a natural phenomenon. Then he takes on *The Purpose-Driven Life*, disputing its claim that, to be moral, one must deny evolution. Available to stream legally at http://www.ted.com/talks/dan_dennett_s_response_to_rick_warren.html

"On Dangerous Memes" - Dan Dennett TED Lecture

February 2002. Starting with the simple tale of an ant, philosopher Dan Dennett unleashes a devastating salvo of ideas, making a powerful case for the existence of memes -- concepts that are literally alive. Available to stream legally at http://www.ted.com/talks/dan_dennett_on_dangerous_memes.html

"On Letting Go of God" - Julia Sweeney TED Set

February 2006. Julia Sweeney (*God Said, "Ha!"*) performs the first 15 minutes of her 2006 solo show *Letting Go of God*. When two young Mormon missionaries knock on her door one day, it touches off a quest to completely rethink her own beliefs. Available to stream legally at http://www.ted.com/talks/julia_sweeney_on_letting_go_of_god.html

"On Militant Atheism" - Richard Dawkins TED Lecture

February 2002. Richard Dawkins urges all atheists to openly state their position -- and to fight the incursion of the church into politics and science. A fiery, funny, powerful talk. Available to stream legally at http://www.ted.com/talks/richard_dawkins_on_militant_atheism.html

"On Our Consciousness" - Dan Dennett TED Lecture

February 2003. Philosopher Dan Dennett makes a compelling argument that not only don't we understand our own consciousness, but that half the time our brains are actively fooling us. Available to stream legally at http://www.ted.com/talks/dan_dennett_on_our_consciousness.html

"On Our 'Queer' Universe" - Richard Dawkins TED Lecture

July 2005. Biologist Richard Dawkins makes a case for "thinking the improbable" by looking at how the human frame of reference limits our understanding of the universe. Available to stream legally at http://www.ted.com/talks/richard_dawkins_on_our_queer_universe.html

"On Strange Beliefs" - Michael Shermer TED Lecture

February 2006. Why do people see the Virgin Mary on a cheese sandwich or hear demonic lyrics in "Stairway to Heaven"? Using video and music, skeptic Michael Shermer shows how we convince ourselves to believe -- and overlook the facts. Available to stream legally at http://www.ted.com/talks/michael_shermer_on_believing_strange_things.html

"Science can Answer Moral Questions" - Sam Harris TED Lecture

February 2010. Questions of good and evil, right and wrong are commonly thought unanswerable by science. But Sam Harris argues that science can -- and should -- be an authority on moral issues, shaping human values and setting out what constitutes a good life. Available to stream legally at http://www.ted.com/talks/sam_harris_science_can_show_what_s_right.html

"Strange Rebirth of Liberalism (The)" - Richard Reeves Lecture

Richard Reeves' 2009 BHA Bentham Lecture. Richard Reeves, the Director of the think-tank Demos, made the case that true liberalism the liberalism of Mill is not the problem, but the solution to the moral and societal problems facing us today. Available to stream legally at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tJVFx1aMRG8>

"Terrorism, Torture and Human Rights" - Jonathan Glover's 2008 BHA Bentham Lecture

2008 was the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which gave the BHA the theme for that year's Bentham Lecture - the fifth to be held. Available to stream legally at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gYPbYDO0Bw0>

"Value of Big Science: CERN, the LHC and the exploration of the Universe (The)" -

Brian Cox's 2010 BHA Voltaire Lecture

Professor Brian Cox holds a chair in particle physics at the University of Manchester and works on the ATLAS experiment at the Large Hadron Collider, CERN near Geneva. Brian, a former member of pop band D:Ream, also works in television and radio and delivers talks to schools, science festivals and conferences. He has written articles for The New Statesmen and The Times and was a technical consultant on Danny Boyle's film, Sunshine. The LHC is an international research project involving scientists, support staff and engineers from more than a hundred nations, making it one of the largest scientific experiments ever conducted. Available to stream legally at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZ87e4KIung>

"We'd Be Better Off Without Religion" - Intelligence Squared Debate

Christopher Hitchens, Richard Dawkins and Anthony Grayling against Nigel Spivey, Rabbi Julia Neuberger and Roger Scruton. Available to stream legally at <http://www.intelligencesquared.com/iq2-video/2007/wed-be-better-off-without-religion>

Other (3)

Atheist Experience (The)

Counterapologetics broadcast over the internet from Texas every Sunday night - stream at 10.30pm at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/the-atheist-experience>

Cartoons related to religion

Leeds Atheist Society puts together a mix of cartoons related to religion, such as South Park and the Simpsons. It always goes down well and is great for quiet time in the Reason Week tent or during exam periods when students don't want to think.

Short Youtubes

Stephen Fry god rant - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q9SdrscCIT>

ned Dennett TED Lecture

February 2009. Why are babies cute? Why is cake sweet? Philosopher Dan Dennett has answers you wouldn't expect, as he shares evolution's counterintuitive reasoning on cute, sweet and sexy things (plus a new theory from Matthew Hurley on why jokes are funny). Available to stream legally at

http://www.ted.com/talks/dan_dennett_cute_sexy_sweet_funny.html

Darwin, Humanism and Science Conference - AC Grayling, James Williams, Michael Schmidt-Salomon and Richard Dawkins lectures

The BHA's 2009 Day Conference featuring talks from a number of speeches, and available to stream legally.

AC Grayling: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HbeY9_NErCs

James Williams on "Insidious Creationism" and why we should teach children early in their education about geological time and the theory of evolution: <http://www.youtube.com/wa>